

Message Text

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ACTION ICAE-00

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ICA FOR ECA/IV AND EU

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EDX, MT
SUBJECT: PROPOSED PARTIAL IVP GRANT TO MALTA ATTORNEY
- GENERAL EDGAR MIZZI

1. MALTA'S ATTORNEY GENERAL EDGAR MIZZI WILL BE IN NEW YORK FOR TWO TO THREE WEEKS BEGINNING AUGUST 26 LEADING GOM DELEGATION TO LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. POST WOULD LIKE TO OFFER PARTIAL IVP GRANT TO ENABLE MIZZI TO GO TO WASHINGTON FOR THREE TO FOUR DAYS.

2. MIZZI'S ROLE IN MALTA IS FAR BROADER THAN HIS OFFICIAL DESIGNATION SUGGESTS. HE IS A KEY ADVISOR TO MINTOFF ON A WHOLE VARIETY OF ISSUES, INCLUDING THOSE RELATING TO PROBLEMS OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT, MALTA'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EUROPEANS AND THE ARABS ON MALTA'S POST-1979 POLICIES, AND VIRTUALLY ALL MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS SUCH AS THE LOS. HE WAS THE KEY FIGURE IN SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT LAST JANUARY OF THE EXIM BANK'S CLAIM IN THE PHOENIX TEXTILE CASE AND MORE RECENTLY IN THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ON THE DISPOSITION OF ESSO HOLDINGS HERE. HE TRAVELS FREQUENTLY WIHMNTOFON TRIPS ABROAD. THIS EMBASSY JUDGES HIM AS PROBABLY THE SINGLE MOST INFLUENTIAL ADVISOR TO MINTOFF ON
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FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES.

3. IT IS FOR THESE REASONS THAT WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS PRESENCE IN NEW YORK TO GIVE HIM SOME EXPOSURE TO US VIEWS AT A SENIOR LEVEL ON BOTH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ISSUES. HE IS THE KIND OF MALTESE OFFICIAL WITH WHOM AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS CAN TAKE PLACE WITH-

OUT EXCESSIVE FOCUS ON THE WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR US
LATELY THEME OF SO MANY MALTESE. THE TIMING IS RIGHT,
GIVEN THE STATUS OF MALTA'S DIALOGUE WITH EUROPE AND THE
ARABS. WE HAVE, IN THE FIRM BUT FRIENDLY RECEPTION
GIVEN BY WASHINGTON TO MP'S MARIO FELICE AND CARMELO VELLA
IN THEIR VISITS, MADE SOME PROGRESS IN BUILDING AN AWARE-
NESS IN THE UPPER LEVELS OF THE GOM OF THE LIMITATIONS OF
WHAT THEY CAN EXPECT FROM US. TIMING IS ALSO RIGHT,
GIVEN RESOLUTION OF THE PHOENIX CASE AND THE REAL PROGRESS
ON THE ESSO PROBLEM, TO GIVE MIZZI AN IMPRESSION FROM
WASHINGTON OF WHAT MALTA NEEDS TO DO FOR ITSELF TO ENHANCE
ITS ATTRACTIVENESS TO AMERICAN INVESTORS.

4. PUT SIMPLY, HIS VISIT WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO
STRENGTHEN THE PERSPECTIVE OF A MAN WHO WE THINK IS
BASICALLY INTERESTED IN PRESERVING A STRONG WESTERN CON-
NECTION FOR MALTA AND WHO IS INFLUENTIAL ENOUGH TO HAVE
SOME IMPACT ON HOW THINGS DEVELOP HERE. TO THIS END WE
RECOMMEND A PROGRAM ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

- DEPARTMENT OF STATE - UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM AND
- ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST
- DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - A SENIOR OFFICIAL CONCERNED
- WITH DOUBLE TAXATION TREATIES

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- DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH US
- INVESTMENT ABROAD
- SUPREME COURT - MEETING WITH A JUSTICE
- CONGRESS - MEETING WITH SELECTED CONGRESSMEN AND
- SENIOR STAFF MEMBERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

5. BIO NOTES: MIZZI WAS BORN IN SLIEMA, MALTA, MARCH 24,
1921. RECEIVED B.A. FROM UNIVERSITY OF MALTA 1942, LL.D.
1946. STUDIED AT LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS 1946-47.
PRACTICED LAW 1948-61. COMMISSIONER OF LAND AND CHIEF
LAND REGISTRAR 1961-65. APPOINTED DEPUTY CROWN ADVOCATE
GENERAL 1965 AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO HIS PRESENT POST OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL. HE PREVIOUSLY VISITED THE US UNDER A
1967 IV GRANT.

6. PLEASE ADVISE BY PRIORITY CABLE SO THAT WE CAN DISCUSS
A VISIT OF THIS KIND WITH MIZZI DIRECTLY. WE HAVE NOT
APPROACHED HIM AS YET, BUT BELIEVE HE WOULD BE RECEPTIVE.
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